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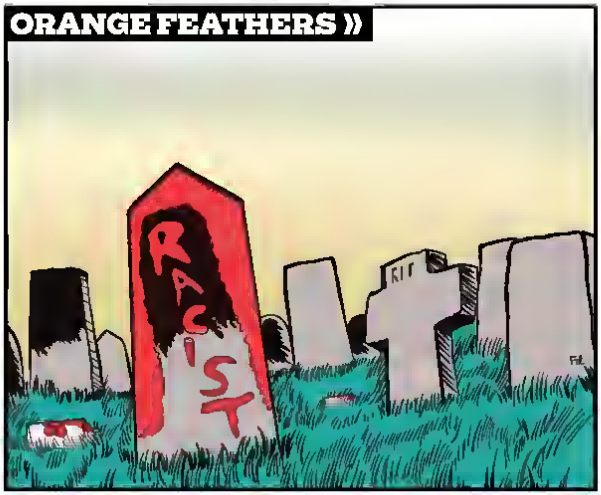


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"Just another ho-ho-hum article penned by another so-called 'journalist.' There's nothing to impeach him with; get over yourselves, you bunch of overgrown toddlers. Thankfully, I read this lame article the day after these 'rallies,' which were probably attended by tons of people or I would have been at any one of them with my ginormous Trump 2020 signs and flags. Let's see if *OC Weekly* will post anything about pro-Trump rallies for his re-election."

—*Jim, commenting on Anthony Pignataro's "Our Guide to OC's Impeach Trump Rallies" (June 16).*

**We respond:** *OC Weekly* covers pro-Trump rallies all the time, including the one at which our reporters exercising their constitutional rights were jumped by your fellow flaming MAGAts.

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# Illegal Playlist

## Who aided sheriff's deputies in the secret monitoring of attorney-client calls from jail?

For decades, the local population routinely accepted the word of Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) deputies as gospel. Reports of gruesome deputy beatings of inmates, sleeping on the job, using public equipment such as helicopters for personal use and federal corruption convictions of the agency's top three officers didn't permanently scar their reputations, perhaps because they were spun as isolated, freak events. But by February 2015, OCSD managers found themselves in a public-relations crisis that was winning embarrassing national headlines.

Evidence proved deputies and their supervisors systematically cheated the criminal-justice system for decades by aiding prosecutors in winning trials with underhanded tactics. They'd run unconstitutional scams using jailhouse informants to trick pretrial inmates into talking about their cases despite their right to remain silent. With juries kept in the dark, deputies hid or destroyed records of these plots. They'd even committed perjury as the coup de grâce in their slimy endeavors.

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» R. SCOTT MOXLEY

Once caught in lies after swearing to tell the whole truth, deputies incredibly claimed they thought they had the right to pick and choose which questions to answer honestly on the witness stand.

It's in that environment that seemingly unrelated events occurred in early 2015—which I'll highlight after some necessary background. Reston, Virginia-based Global Tel*Link Corp. (GTL), OCSD's handpicked monopoly for the lucrative jailhouse-phone system, upgraded its surveillance capabilities in January. In March, Superior Court Judge Thomas M. Goethals, disgusted by deputies' lies in a death-penalty case, blasted their perjury and historically booted then-District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, as well as his entire staff, because he believed prosecutors were more concerned about winning than insisting on ethical law-enforcement operations.

In between those two events was hidden, until recently, the key moment to OCSD's latest scandal. Freshman Sheriff Don Barnes didn't want his era at the helm of the agency and its billion-dollar annual budget marred by scandals on par with the missteps of Sandra Hutchens, his predecessor and warped mentor. According to sources, Barnes hoped his fresh face, golly-gee quotes and towering, cowboy physique might allow him a fresh start. But it was impossible that some of Hutchens' myriad of scandals, which Barnes dutifully participated in as second in command, wouldn't spill over to the next top cop, which is precisely what happened with the GTL mess.

A fluke January 2018 discovery in a separately wild, questionable, ongoing attempted-murder prosecution in *People v Josh Waring* revealed that tainted sheriff's deputies and Costa Mesa cops had been recording, downloading and listening to calls the pretrial defendant made to his attorney, Joel Garson. As with using jail snitches as government agents to question OCSD targets before their trials, it's illegal to violate attorney-client communications. Even graduates of community-college Policing 101 understand that fundamental Sixth Amendment principle.

But as the informant scandal underscored, too many OCSD deputies think neither the law nor common decency constrict their conduct. Fueling this duplicity is the belief they are shrouded in official secrecy and if, by chance, ugly facts escape containment, then local prosecutors will ignore transgressions. Newly elected, reform-claiming DA Todd Spitzer adopted Rackauckas' policy of protecting dirty deputies. For example, in at least 145 cases, his deputy DAs have blocked defense-attorney access to records of moral turpitude committed by badged OCSD employees. That move helps maintain the fiction that deputies' testimony and arrest reports are unquestionably righteous.

Because of the *Waring* revelations, GTL and OCSD panicked for differing reasons. One was concerned about its corporate credibility, its desire to keep 82 percent of the U.S. jail phone-call market and how to protect $1.2 billion in annual revenues. The other was Hutchens' desire to avoid another controversy during her final year in power. Both spent half a year concocting seemingly plausible spins to downplay the violations of attorney-client communications. When the public began to hear about this cheating in August 2018, they were told the phone-call surveillance had been because of a benign technical glitch and that deputy access to the conversations hadn't benefited law-enforcement cases.

Undermining those assertions have been glaring inconsistencies, flip-flops and common sense. Who was to blame? At first, a technical glitch was at fault. Then, it was "human error" by a nameless, mysterious employee, who—if this person exists—is being hidden from defense attorney questioning. Later, the glitch line returned. And finally, it was suggested client county

JOUVON MICHAEL KINGSBY

departments had screwed up, according to GTL emails. But you'll see by the end of this column it was all poppycock.

In late July 2018, Darren Wallace, GTL's executive vice president for operations, sent Hutchens a letter that allegedly summarized the parties' private discussions. Wallace wrote that the company "had recently discovered" the abuse of privileged attorney-client calls because of a "technical error." He also claimed the mess had been fixed.

A month later, in *Waring* testimony, Wallace pointed to a "human error" as the cause. He also stated he'd written the letter to the sheriff on his 11th day on this particular GTL assignment and noted it was his first official act. But in truth, he wasn't the author. The man who wrote the basic contents of the letter to OCSD had been George McNitt, GTL's Fort Worth-based vice president of technical services.

Why conceal that fact? Because admission of McNitt's authorship role would have belied the claim that GTL had "recently discovered" the supposedly new problem in Orange County. He'd crafted the letter three years and four months earlier to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office in Florida, according to records reviewed by the *Weekly*. A prosecutor there had discovered that hundreds of attorney-inmate calls had been accessed by deputies and, honorably, complained.

Both the 2018 Wallace-signed letter and the 2015 McNitt-signed letter argue the same point: breaking the attorney-client privilege had been unintentional, whether in California or Florida or anywhere else they've botched affairs.

But recall early 2015. GTL installed its new phone system in January. Two months later, OCSD officials felt the blistering rebuke of a judge. Wedged between those two events were bombshell February moves behind the scenes that indicate the phone monitoring might not have been innocent after all.

On Feb. 23 of that year, someone oddly made calls from two OC jail facilities to the IT Department of the Orange County Public Defender's Office (OCPD). Even more puzzling, Larry Coleman, an on-site technician who handled GTL issues for OCSD, accessed one of those bizarre calls.

Had Coleman confirmed deputies could monitor pretrial inmate calls to public defenders without detection?

Adil M. Khan, a Los Angeles-based lawyer for GTL, this month labeled such questions "conspiracy theories." Khan says we should trust the company's current wobbly accounting. He hopes Superior Court Judge Gregg L. Prickett, a former prosecutor, will block public defenders Sara Ross and Scott Sanders from asking GTL employees future questions or obtaining more GTL documents. Otherwise, the government contractor would be put in an "unfair" situation, he says.

Yet, it's fascinating that just hours after Coleman's 2015 call to the OCPD's IT Department, sheriff's Special Handling Deputy Blake Blaney began unethically accessing inmate calls to OCPD lawyers—and the company did nothing to stop it, court records indicate.

According to Sanders, "It appears circumstantially strong that Coleman actually gave the Special Handling Unit the 'all clear' sign to access privileged calls."

RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

» GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

## The Disney *Register*

At a time when Orange County is quickly becoming an end news desert, readers of all things Disney aren't dying of thirst. Between a Toon Town brawl, an uncrowded Star Wars Galaxy's Edge and summer discount tickets for annual passholders, Disney theme-park tales accounted for five of the *Orange County Register*'s six most popular stories at one point last week.

How deep does the *Register*'s Disney obsession go? This Mouse Muckraker surveyed three months' worth of stories to find out.

With Galaxy's Edge nearing its soft opening, the newspaper published 45 Disney stories online in April, the overwhelming majority of them noncontroversial. Hype for the new land accounted for 18 of them. That tied the *Register*'s news, crime and feature stories about Anaheim outside the parks, which tallied 18 for the month.

In May, Disney coverage topped out at a whopping 72 articles—good for more than two per day! Of course, with Galaxy's Edge opening on May 31 to parkgoers with reservations, the *Register* went into hyperdrive, covering every imaginable angle. Galaxy's Edge stories alone accounted for 64 of the 72 Disney write-ups that month, leaving coverage of the rest of Anaheim in the dust with 27 such stories by comparison.

The *Register* began easing up on Galaxy's Edge in June with headlines such as "This is What International Yoga Day Looked Like at Disneyland," "Main Street Electrical Parade Is Coming Back to Disneyland" and "Disney Fans: An Extra Hour of Soarin' Over California. Just for Annual Passholders." In all, 45 stories about Disneyland were published online last month, the only critical ones of the bunch highlighting the short-lived Main Street Cinema gift-shop controversy. Galaxy's Edge articles fell to just 27, the same as that of Anaheim coverage.

It's official. The *Register* is in a Disney daze. With the newspaper lean on staff and page count, Disney stories definitely appear more prominently these days. And since we're on the subject, in these past three months, Knott's Berry Farm enjoyed all of 10 *Register* write-ups.

Won't somebody show Snoopy some more love?

**GSANROMAN@OCWEEKLY.COM**

## HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

### Farce of July

Hey, everyone! Since when are pyrotechnic displays synonymous with patriotism?

BOB AUL

**HEY, YOU!** Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly*, 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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FROM LEFT: GARDEN-TENDERS VIET TRAN, JON REISER, DANIEL PARK AND ANGEL ZARAGOZA

# AMP'D UP

## GARDEN GROVE BLOOMS WITH THE CULTIVATION OF GARDEN AMP

BY STEVE DONOFRIO

PHOTOS BY FEDERICO MEDINA

As Garden Grove Mayor Steve Jones walks the Garden Amp grounds, it's obvious he's just as excited as all of the goofy-looking teenagers, crusty punks and sunkissed hipsters attending Nothing Fest. "Ten to 15 years ago, this was a sleepy little Main Street with a bunch of antique malls, and we were trying to do our best just to revitalize it. ... I don't think I ever could have fathomed this!" hizzoner says with a proud smile of the "freakin' awesome," all-day music festival featuring some of Southern California's best indie acts.

While crossdressing beach-Goth rocker DMTina plays a naturally rowdy set inside the Locker Room, the venue's smaller indoor spot, Long Beach's Skin Mag unleashes psychedelic, chilled-out tunes on the other side of the grounds at the Tree House, an outdoor space of about the same size. People who aren't watching either of those two acts are exploring the various food and art vendors or waiting for electronic indie-pop icons James Supercave to finish setting up on the main amphitheater stage. For Jones, who was born and raised in an entirely different Garden Grove, the event is sort of surreal.

For more than three decades, the space was mainly used to host Shakespeare productions and the city's annual Strawberry Festival. Although those events did gain some relative popularity, the Garden Grove Amphitheatre was only active for one or two months of the year. But that changed in 2017, when LFA Group LLC signed a 10-year contract with the city. Since then, the newly rebranded Garden Amp has hosted countless local bands, touring acts and all-day festivals.

It should be noted that if LFA were a band, it'd be nothing short of a supergroup, with Jon Reiser, who's gained a reputation for building up such venues as Detroit Bar (now the Wayfarer) in Costa Mesa and the Observatory in Santa Ana, Viet Tran, former owner of Shark Club in Costa Mesa and co-owner of Mexicasian fusion food truck/restaurant Dos Chinos, and Angel Zaragoza, who's earned some serious punk-rock credibility from his experience with Warped Tour and on the road with the legendary group Strung Out.

When they first visited the amphitheater, they saw it had potential, even though it had never before functioned as a live-music venue. "We fell in love with this place right when we walked in," says Tran. "There's nothing else like this around here."

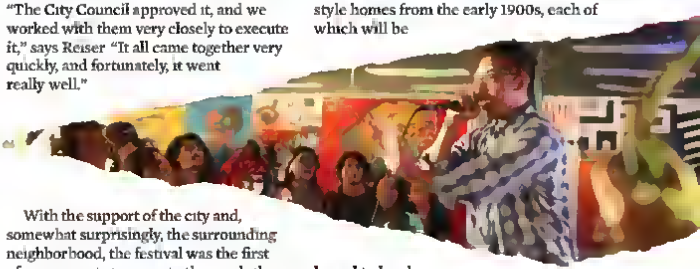
For Reiser, the space provided the perfect blend of nostalgia and practicality. "I grew up going to Irvine Meadows as a kid, and I just always loved that property," he explains. "So for a long time, I was looking for an outdoor space to sort of emulate that experience. Like, we're in Southern California, and the weather's great, so to experience a concert outside just has a different feel to it than being in a building. When you do a concert in a building and you put however many people in it, the HVAC systems can't keep up. There are ventilation issues and all these things that make people uncomfortable. This [outdoor] experience takes most of that away. So it just seems like a better vibe. It's less claustrophobic."

Before Reiser discovered the Garden Grove Amphitheatre, he was considering converting a vacant parking lot into a venue. He tested the idea in an empty Santa Ana lot in 2015 with Outpost Fest, featuring the likes of Cold War Kids and Blonde Redhead.

"So I started to kind of go down that path: find a parking lot, cover it with fake grass, put in some shipping containers, build a festival stage, and boom, now it's a venue," Reiser says. "But when we found this, it was already fenced in, it was already a venue. ... This was exactly what we were looking for, and the city wanted to bring some concerts and millennials to town. It just sort of made sense for everybody."

Under the direction of Jones and the ReImagine Garden Grove campaign, the city has been blooming. In 2014, Garden Grove hosted its first Open Streets event with live music, food trucks and beer gardens along a 2.5-mile stretch. The city also sponsored several public art installations, including a mural painted by former USC/Raiders quarterback Todd Marinovich on the side of the historic GEM Theater.

In the summer of 2017, LFA Group brought High and Mighty Fest to Village Green Park, which is connected to the Garden Grove Amphitheatre. A collaboration between LFA and SoCal reggae staples Sublime With Rome and Dirty Heads, the festival was originally supposed to take place in Irvine but had to be relocated in just two months' time. So LFA met with Garden Grove officials to figure out traffic, parking and logistics. "The City Council approved it, and we worked with them very closely to execute it," says Reiser. "It all came together very quickly, and fortunately, it went really well."



With the support of the city and, somewhat surprisingly, the surrounding neighborhood, the festival was the first of many events to come to the amphitheater. It was also the first time Jones had seen nationally touring acts play in his hometown. "Being up there and watching Sublime With Rome play 'Garden Grove' in Garden Grove, at a park ... that was like, 'I'm good. I can die now,'" he says and laughs.

These early victories produced a snowball effect for the ReImagine Garden Grove campaign, attracting more entrepreneurs and creatives. "It's kind of been this natural progression," says Jones. "All the cool kids are starting to converge in Garden Grove and open up businesses, restaurants and venues. So I feel like we're right on the cusp of breaking it open. It's taken a long time to get here, from my vantage point, but I'm impressed with what we've accomplished and where we're going."

The city has multiple developments scheduled to open this summer, including SteelCraft Garden Grove, an outdoor urban eatery. The concept, which started in Long Beach, utilizes repurposed shipping containers to host gourmet food and beverage vendors in a family-friendly atmosphere. Among the carefully curated occupants is the Penalty Box, a walk-up burger dive owned by former Anaheim Ducks legend Teemu Selänne.

Shaheen Sadeghi, a developer known for the Lab anti-mall in Costa Mesa and the Packing House in Anaheim, will bring his latest venture to Garden Grove. He's purchased 15 Craftsman-style homes from the early 1900s, each of which will be leased to local businesses and covered in artistic murals, creating a hip, Instagram-worthy atmosphere.

Jones also hopes to bring some technology to the area, and to do so, he recently partnered with Arabian Prince, one of the founding members of LA gangsta-rap group N.W.A. "He's a friend of mine, and he's an amazingly bright and energetic guy," Jones says. "He's always hustlin', and he's involved in a million different tech-related things. We're looking to bring video-gaming events to town, and we're bringing a fast-pitch, venture-capital, tech-funding type of event to town in August."

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

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# AMP'D UP

» FROM PAGE 9

While the city itself has been flourishing over the past couple of years, so has the Garden Amp. Not long after the success of High and Mighty Fest, LFA started programming the area on a regular basis. With Zaragoza's punk and hardcore roots, Reiser's countless connections from his years at Detroit Bar and the Observatory, and the addition of promoters Daniel Park and Chris Lisk, the team had no shortage of talent to work with. However, they were faced with the challenge of drawing a crowd to a venue that virtually no one had heard of before.

"In the past, we could just come out of the gate booking well-known artists," Reiser explains. "But that's really high-risk in terms of finances. If we do that here, we don't sell tickets at the same rate that another venue would. Even if people see the ticket link—because they don't know what this is, they inherently buy tickets to the venues they are familiar with."

So the group focused on building a reputation for Garden Amp. From hosting local showcases with production teams such as Vertigo Volumes to selling out consecutive nights for reggae royalty Stephen Marley, LFA has brought more live music to Garden Grove than the city has seen before—no simple feat, considering some nearby residents didn't even know what the space was being used for in previous years.

"Viet went to Garden Grove High School and never knew this place was here, which seems pretty common. It's kind of trippy. A lot of people have told us that [the place] was a Southern California Edison thing because of that tower," Reiser says, motioning to the amphitheater's spotlight. "The only reason they know it's a venue now is because they can hear us."

Naturally, volume ended up being another issue to tackle. The facility was mainly used for theatrical productions, so its sound system wasn't nearly loud enough for musical acts. A much larger, professional system was needed for the main stage. "This same system used to be part of a larger one at the Greek [Theatre], so it's pretty legit," Reiser says with a laugh.

However, as we all learned from Spider-Man, with great power comes great responsibility. The louder sound system brought with it the potential for more noise complaints from the neighbors, especially those in the apartment complex adjacent to the Garden Amp. But the management team made a point of being hands-on in solving any such issues. "[Reiser, Zaragoza and Park] are here for pretty much every show," says Tran.

This level of engagement has been the key to establishing a good relationship between the city and Garden Amp. "I credit them for doing a really good job at being community-conscious," says Jones. "They get out there and meet with the neighbors. Whenever we get any complaints about noise or decibels or that kind of stuff, they'll actually go sit down in living rooms and try to resolve it. Especially with respect to being in entertainment, being loud and noisy and drawing crowds, they're good about mitigating all the downside of that by just being active and involved."

Besides maintaining an open line of communication with the community, LFA utilizes outside-the-box thinking while improving the grounds. For example, what now houses the Locker Room is a temporary modular building that once functioned as a dressing room for actors.

"The lockers were already there," explains Reiser. "We just turned them around, put them up on some stage decking, and thought, 'Hey, that makes kind of a cool backdrop.'" The resulting space has an intimate, DIY feel.

This quirkiness is present throughout the Garden Amp. Scraps of sheet metal left behind by previous tenants have been adorned with paintings, and some old props have been turned into interactive installments. Nearly every large walkway is being transformed into an art

gallery And the pinkish-orange chairs that line the inside of the amphitheater were once part of the vibrant sea of red at Angel Stadium.

With the main stage, the Locker Room and the Tree House (a small outside patio area with a stage), the space can essentially be broken up into three separate venues And because the Locker Room and the Tree House are situated on opposite sides of the main amphitheater, each could host an entirely separate event on the same night.

But what truly sets the Garden Amp apart from other live-music venues are the visionaries behind it. Walk into LFA's main office on any given day, and you'll see a group of close friends pooling resources and utilizing each one's creative strengths.

One of the best examples of this collaborative teamwork resulted in legendary New York hardcore band Gorilla Biscuits playing the amphitheater. In fact, Lisk booked an entire mini-tour for the group just to get them to Garden Grove. "I've had a deep relationship with those guys since the first big show that I threw—Liskfest in 2008 at Oak Canyon Ranch," Lisk explains "Gorilla Biscuits headlined that show, and I ended up booking a bunch of other shows for them. So I kind of just came up with the idea and was like, 'Hey, I really want to get you guys into this amphitheater What do you think?' And they said, 'Yeah, let's make a weekend out of it.'"

The show ended up being epic The band reportedly claimed the gig was one of their all-time top five It's difficult to believe that any of the amphitheater's seats were occupied that night, as the audience crowded into the pit area. The drum riser ended up hosting the band, as the rest of the stage was covered by moshing, crowd-surfing fans

"People who operate a venue typically are like, 'We have to have these barricades; we need this many security guards It has to be done this way,'" says Reiser "But we really understand the culture of that music And we know that it actually is safe to do that, even though it might not look it to the outside perspective If one of those kids falls, everybody grabs them and picks them up So it allows us to be comfortable enough to remove barricades and have our security guards just kind of stand back."

Clearly, the minds behind the Garden Amp have a genuine love for the music scene at large They even make a point of hiring some of their musician friends when they aren't touring "It's funny because I'll forget about it," says Park, "and some band member will come up to me like, 'Dude, the lead singer of Death By Stereo is stage managing right now!'"

Much like its home city, Garden Amp continues to grow This summer, a new restaurant will open in a converted snack bar area on the Tree House side of the property Tran, who might pull from his experience with Dos Chinos, says it will most likely serve gastropub-style cuisine, which Zaragoza guarantees will be top-notch. "It's got to be good, dude," he says "I hate it when I go to a restaurant, and I can cook better than what I'm getting. So we have got to be able to eat the food that we're serving, and we're picky as shit."

The team also plans to bring live music to the Locker Room every night in the hopes of nurturing a local music scene Nothing Fest is certainly a step in that direction.

For hip-hop artist Josh Dominguez, the event gives him an opportunity to perform in his hometown. "I can't be more proud of not just Garden Grove, but Orange County locals in general for creating a movement in a place that has been deprived of energy due to the massive amount of entertainment outlets across Orange County and Los Angeles," he says

What seems to be most important to the Garden Amp team is the overall experience "All venues have a perspective or something," says Reiser "What you see them put up is some sort of reflection of the people that are running it. From the minute you interact with someone to the minute you leave, that should be a positive experience."

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July 19

SPEAKER TOPIC
MAKING THE CHOICE: MY FAMILY OR DRUGS
July 26

SPEAKER TOPIC
LOST IT ALL, AND GAINED EVERYTHING
August 2

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# *calendar

**wednesday›**
**CUCKOO FOR CUCO**

CAMERON POSTHOOSH

## fri/07/19

[THEATER]

### The Double Douche

*Love, Thunder and Dynamite: A Road House Parody*

The Garage Theatre takes on a blast from the past as it highlights the 1989 hit *Road House*, which tells the story of Dalton, a club bouncer with a Ph.D. who is tasked with cleaning up the Double Deuce and turning it into a local hot spot. Starring Patrick Swayze, the film has a 38 percent fresh rating from Rotten Tomatoes, and now the Garage Theatre's comedic cast make it worth watching. For this parody spin-off, the theater will be transformed into a working dive bar that will include beer, cocktails, and "too many 40-year-old adolescents, felons, power drinkers and trustees of modern chemistry." Don't miss out!

*Love Thunder and Dynamite: A Road House Parody* at the Garage Theatre, 251 E. Seventh St., Long Beach, (562) 433-8337, wwwthegaragetheatre.org. 8 p.m. Through Aug. 10. $18–$30. —NIKKI NELSEN

[CONCERT]

### Dream Boy

Katzu Oso

Los Angeles soundscaper Katzu Oso is reimagining the dream-pop genre, bringing cosmic music production and danceable beats. As with many others before him, Oso (real name Paul Hernandez) perfected his tunes by experimenting with software and various instrumental elements, resulting in a series of romantic, lovey-dovey tracks sealed with his own soft vocals and bilingual lyrics. Having toured up and down the United States, audiences have become infatuated with the young artist, who is only now starting to generate wider praise for such releases as "Pastel" and "Coqueta." See him in his element tonight and fall in love yourself.

Katzu Oso with Sara King and Yungatita at the Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com. 9 p.m. $12. All ages. —AIMEE MURILLO

## sat/07/20

[CONCERT]

### STILL A HEARTBREAKER

**Pat Benatar**

Few female rockers prior to her emergence in the early 1980s captured the imagination quite like Pat Benatar. Armed with a superior arsenal of hits, Benatar's fiery image and heavy rock sound continue to stand out. Despite not having released an album since 2003's *Go*, Benatar and her husband/guitarist, Neil "Spyder" Giraldo, have led their band on yearly tours. Celebrating the 40th-anniversary of her breakthrough album *In the Heat of the Night*, which included the hit single "Heartbreaker," Benatar and company will run through a slate of monster singles that not only harken back to the '80s, but also remind fans what a timeless artist she is in her own right.

Pat Benatar with Neil Giraldo, plus Melissa Etheridge, at Pacific Amphitheatre, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, pacamp.com. 7 p.m. $40–$75. All ages. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[FILM]

### Strike a Pose

*Paris Is Burning*

The Frida Cinema invites you to take an exhilarating crash course in 1980s drag-queen performance art. Director Jennie Livingston's landmark 1990 documentary *Paris Is Burning* offers political insight way ahead of its time, with the help of an artful and elegant cast of guides to a then-obscure subculture. Pepper LaBeija, Dorian Corey, Angie Xtravaganza and Willi Ninja each perform poignant, sincere, yet always fun mimicry of an often cruel and oppressive social hierarchy, transforming fashion runway moves into political theater and caricature. Commentary against homophobia and transphobia, racism, AIDS and poverty was never so much wicked good fun.

*Paris Is Burning* at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Ste. 100, Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422, thefridacinema.org. Noon, 2, 4, 6, 8 & 10 p.m., also Sun. $10. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

# sun/07/21

[COMEDY]

## Funny Faces

### Many Faces of Muslim Women Comedy

Local comedian Zara Khan has gathered her funniest gal pals from around Southern California for a night of stereotype-busting punch lines. Khan's own hilarious standup routines take on everything from arranged marriages, Muslim dating apps and a joke or two at Orange County's expense. Mona Shaikh, Zahra Ali, Fizaa Dosani, Zahra Noorbakhsh, Zain Shami and Reem Adan (not to be confused with Ramadan, as the comedian jests!) round out the rest of tonight's Rec Room show. Though it's the first time an all-women Muslim lineup takes the stage in OC, hopefully, it's not the last—inshallah!

Many Faces of Muslim Women Comedy Show at the Rec Room, 7227 Edinger Ave., Huntington Beach, (714) 316-0775; recroomhb.com. 7 p.m. $15. 21+. —GABRIEL SAN ROMÁN

[CONCERT]

## Get Happy

### Happy Sundays

Part of Long Beach's free-admission, all-ages-welcome, live concert series Happy Sundays, bands Nectarines, Winter and King Flamingo, plus special guests Master Droog and DJ Polyester perform in the parking lot on the corner of Fourth Street and Cherry Avenue (right next to Lola's). But consider this event a prequel for the big lineup next month, when Happy Sundays takes over the Zaferia District (from Alex's Bar all the way to DiPiazza's) and more than 30 bands play sets at several venues.

Happy Sundays at Retro Row, Fourth Street and Cherry Avenue, Long Beach, happysundayslbc.com. 2 p.m. Free. —ERIN DEWITT


SURF ISSUE

PUBLISHES
07/25/19

OCWEEKLY. ORANGE COUNTY'S LEADING SOURCE OF NEWS CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT


# mon/07/22

[FILM]

## After *Midnight*

### *Midnight Cowboy*

British director John Schlesinger won the Oscar for his gritty, humanistic take on James Herlihy's novel about the unlikely bromance between an emotionally damaged Texas dishwasher-turned-male prostitute (Jon Voight) and a broken-down New York con man suffering from tuberculosis (Dustin Hoffman). Featuring standout performances by Brenda Vaccaro and Sylvia Miles, *Cowboy* was an integral part of the "maverick era" of films that explored a kaleidoscope of male emotions that have since been reduced to catch-phrases, "no homo," and the jacked-up flexing of guns. Go see what we used to do, then cry like a real man.

*Midnight Cowboy* at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Ste. 100, Santa Ana, (714) 285-9422; thefridacinema.org. 2:30, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m.; also Tues. $7.50-$10. —SR DAVIES

# tue/07/23

[ART]

## Make Yourself Comfortable

### 'Place and Displace'

Intended to provoke conversation, Carlos Beltran Arechiga's "Place and Displace" brings his intriguing constructed environments, architecture and natural landscapes to the Irvine Fine Arts Center. The multimedia artist's work delves deep into the fluidity of architecture, identifying it as a construct that can shift and change over time. Rich and colorful patterns create chaotic, mesmerizing imagery. Reflecting man-made architecture and natural landscapes, Arechiga creates meaningful abstractions sure to leave the viewer in awe.

"Carlos Beltran Arechiga, Place and Displace" at the Irvine Fine Arts Center, 14321 Yale, Irvine, (949) 724-6880; www.cityofirvine.org/irvine-fine-arts-center. 10 a.m. Through Aug. 10. Free. —SHANNON AGUAIR

# wed/07/24

CAMERON POSTPANOOSH

[CONCERT]

## UP AND COMING
### Cuco

Over the past year and change, Cuco has accumulated online and critical success. Born Omar Banos, the Hawthorne native first performed in his bedroom as an 8-year-old and a little more than a decade later, is now wowing fans not only locally, but also far beyond with his salacious brand of dream pop. His biggest tour to date takes him to the FoxTheater in Pomona, the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, and the equally impressive City National Grove of Anaheim. Tonight's show is your opportunity to see a rising artist before he truly blows up.

Cuco with UMI and Your Grandparents at the City National Grove of Anaheim, 2200 E. Katella Ave., Anaheim, (714) 712-2700, www.citynationalgroveofanaheim.com. 8 p.m. $35. All ages. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[HEALTH & FITNESS]

## Time to Ride
### Fullerton Loop Bicycle Ride

Ladies and gentlemen, start your peddles! Eric Martins leads beginners on this 11-mile, low-impact ride through the Fullerton Loop. If you haven't yet experienced these riding/walking trails nestled next to downtown Fullerton, this is the perfect opportunity to do so. Just park your car at the Lower Courthouse Parking Lot, and walk your bike over to the trail entrance at 5:30 (rollout is at 5:45). If you miss today's ride, it's no biggie; Jax Bicycle Center hosts this trek on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month.

Fullerton Loop Bicycle Ride at Jax Bicycle Center, near West Valley View Drive and North Berkeley Avenue, Fullerton, (714) 441-1100, jaxbicycles.com. 5:30 p.m. Free. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

# thu/07/25

[FOOD & DRINK]

## Sweet Escape
### Art, Jazz, Wine & Chocolate

Every Thursday until the end of August, every self-respecting hedonist should go to Laguna Beach and gorge on chocolate, chug down obscene amounts of wine and listen to live jazz. Attendees of the Festival of Arts are offered three wines from the Kendall-Jackson Vineyard Estates, which normally charge around $15 to $30 per bottle, plus three chocolates from Cocoa Parlor, a popular but pricey Laguna Niguel chocolate shop. The price of admission also covers tonight's concert by smooth-jazz artist Gregg Karukas. From Two Buck Chuck enthusiasts to pinkie-flexing sommeliers, sweet-toothed drinkers and music fans alike can indulge themselves weekly.

Art, Jazz, Wine & Chocolate at the Festival of Arts, 650 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (800) 487-3378, foapom.com. 5:30 p.m. $20. —JACKSON GUILFOIL

[THEATER]

## TUNE IN
### *Telenovelas* In the Park

The popular Latin American soap-opera genre is as influential as ever. Not only are *telenovelas* entertaining, but they're also always informing the public about political, social justice and global issues. See this principle in action tonight at the Museum of Latin American Art, as a humorous and hilariously overdramatic soap takes place within the Familia Cabezon household. Secrets will be revealed! Shocks will be delivered! But above all else, the story will illuminate the dire situations of plastic pollution and water conservation. Check out this thoughtful yet amusing tale, then start a conversation—and some action!—about these topics.

*Telenovelas* In the Park at Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamitos Ave., Long Beach, (562) 437-1689, molaa.org. 6:30 p.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

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Saturday, August 24
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*Tickets start at $40*

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Saturday, September 7
7:30PM
*Tickets start at $69*

**AN EVENING WITH 98°**
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PHOTOS BY EDWIN GOEI

# Empire State of Mind

## The new Sal's Pizzeria offers a Long Island specialty called a grandma pie

BY EDWIN GOEI

So far, I've been to New York only three times. And of those three visits, I managed to have a proper New York pizza just once. It was from a no-name shop that advertised a $2 slice on its window. I wouldn't be able to relocate the place if I tried, but since it was a memorable trip, that pizza remains one of the best experiences of my life.

When I walked up to the cashier and told him what I wanted, he shoved a steel spatula underneath a slice as large as my face from one of two whole pies on display. He then chucked it into an oven, closed the door, took my cash and gave me change. And in the time that elapsed, the slice had heated enough to become the crisp-bottomed, piping-hot piece of pie that I soon folded into a V and ate from a flimsy paper plate. And as I stood at a counter that faced the street, I realized I couldn't have dreamt of a better pepperoni pizza.

I've had plenty of other New York-style pizzas since then, everywhere from Vegas' secret pizza at the Cosmopolitan to Home Slice in Austin. Those were very good pizzas—great even. But for me, repeating that seminal experience in New York has remained elusive.

Perhaps my fondness for that pizzeria had something to do with how I encountered it serendipitously while on vacation. I wasn't searching for it, it just happened to be there at the exact right time.

I imagine I'd feel the same way about Sal's Pizzeria in Foothill Ranch if I didn't already know it existed. Despite being located deep in OC's suburbia in a food court that abuts a movie theater—just about the opposite of a New York street scene—it's the kind of joint I'd wander into without thinking too much about it, maybe after watching an action flick next door.

And during an afternoon at Sal's, I witnessed dozens of people doing just that. They meandered in not because they were looking to repeat some past epiphany, but because they were hungry, and a slice of pizza is easy and cheap. I saw everyone—from a Rubio's employee at the end of his shift to a 10-year-old girl clutching a $5 bill—picking their slice from an array of ready-made pies. When they did, the blue-haired cashier threw their chosen piece into the oven to melt the cheese and crisp up the bottom. These were the crispiest slices I've ever had. Although the dough going toward the edge crust was thicker—a characteristic that made it hard to fold—Sal's slices were so crunchy on the bottom they produced an audible crackle when bit into.

I also discovered Sal's is one of the few pizzerias in Orange County that makes a grandma pie. This is the pizza you should be eating here. For a grandma pie, dough is pressed into the corners of a rectangular sheet pan greased with lots of olive oil. It's homey and thick, halfway between a New York pizza and a Chicago deep dish. Sal's version of the grandma pie—which is purported to have originated at Umberto's in Long Island—is not lacking in cheese or heft. And like the other slices baked here, the grandma reheats to a raucous crunch.

There are two kinds on offer: one has plain cheese and red sauce, while the other features a topping of seasoned breadcrumbs. If you're Sicilian, the latter might sound like sfincione, the pie your actual grandma might have made for Christmas. It probably is, and it's the topping you want. Never mind that the starch-on-starch action seems as wrong as wearing socks with sandals, it's not.

In fact, rather than being redundant, breadcrumbs on a pizza already made of bread works surprisingly well. Not only do they harbor flavors of caramelized onions and possibly anchovies, but the breadcrumbs also double the crunch factor. When you sink your teeth into a slice, you experience it simultaneously on two fronts: from the top and the bottom.

So, was I able to relive the memory of that first New York slice? No, but Sal's grandma slice formed a new one. And the next time I encounter its equal, wherever that may be, I'm going to compare it to the time I had it here. Of course, it helped that the pizza was part of a wonderful and carefree Fourth of July weekend. Let's face it: sometimes your fondness for a certain food isn't about where you have it, but how you felt when you did.

**SAL'S PIZZERIA**
**26612 Towne Centre Dr., Ste. F, Foothill Ranch, (949) 951-7400, www.salspizzenas.com. Open Mon.-Tues., 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Wed.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Grandma pie slice, $3.25-$3.75, thin-crust slice, $3-$3.50. No alcohol.**

## WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

# Beachwood Turns 8!

I'll never forget my first time stumbling into Beachwood BBQ & Brewing back in 2011. A much-thinner me stood mouth agape and eyes crossed looking at the two tap lists: one of guest beers, which was easily better than most bottle shares, and one of house beers made by rock-star homebrewer-turned-pro Julian Shrago, who joined Gabe and Lena Gordon as Beachwood business partners.

Then there was the smokey barbecue menu to match all that great beer. Add to all that a cool vibe and knowledgable staff, and it's easy to see why Beachwood won Best Brewpub in America two times out of seven at the Great American Beer Festival.

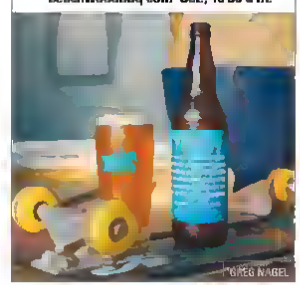
The trio will celebrate the restaurant's eighth anniversary on Saturday with a huge, Bayou-style barbecue. We asked them to elaborate on the details.

**OC WEEKLY:** *What's happening on your anniversary?*

**GABE GORDON:** For the barbecue, we're doing whole pigs on spits over wood—as well as tri-tips!

**JULIAN SHRAGO:** More beer! We're really letting loose and getting creative with beer for the anniversary. We'll have a host of new beers we'll be tapping that day. Look for a smoothie beer that's 40 percent pure fruit! There are also some new IPAs with experimental hops in the mix, along with a few pastry stouts such as Vanilla Fudge. For those who like classic styles, we'll have our Loma Prieta [German-style] pils as well as a yet-to-be-disclosed spin on one of our flagship IPAs. Lastly, we'll have a special beer to commemorate the anniversary [with eight hops and eight malts], which will be available on draft and in four packs of cans.

**BAYOU BARBECUE EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**
**at Beachwood BBQ & Brewing, 210 E. Third St., Long Beach, (562) 436-4020; beachwoodbbq.com. Sat., 10:30 a.m.**



GREG NAGEL

PHOTOS BY ERIN DEWITT

# Your New Favorite

## Joliza's offers simple but delicious, home-cooked Mexican cuisine

**LONG BEACH LUNCH**
» ERIN DEWITT

When Don Chendos closed in late 2018, the Wrigley neighborhood of West Long Beach was unfortunately left with one less authentic Mexican hole-in-the-wall. But the nearly ready-to-go quick-service setup was just waiting for the right restaurant to take over.

Enter Joliza's. There's a new sign out front, but the inside is nearly identical to its predecessor: white with pops of red and yellow, silver metal tables and chairs, an open kitchen just beyond the counter in which you can see various meats being grilled.

Joliza's is a family-run business, with a patriarch who ran a Los Angeles *taqueria* for 30 years before opening up this Long Beach shop. And the food at this small eatery tastes as if it were made by someone who's been at it for three decades; it was some of the most flavor-packed Mexican food I've had on either side of the border.

The menu is simple, offering tacos, burritos, tortas and quesadillas, all with your choice of meat (asada, *pollo*, al pastor, carnitas or *cabeza*). You can add cheese, or make it a combo with rice and beans. The menu runs pretty cheap ($1.50 per taco, $8 for a massive burrito), but Joliza's also offers menudo for 10 bucks per bowl every day of the week. To drink, there's horchata, Sunny D and Mexican Coke, of which you can grab a can or bottle from the small, self-serve fridge.

There are taquitos de papa for vegetarians—or anyone else who loves the crunchy-yielding-to-soft bite of a fried, rolled tortilla filled with mashed potatoes. These come three to an order, all topped with a drizzle of tangy crema, shredded lettuce, onions and Joliza's special green sauce.

Even though you order your meal at the counter, the service is excellent. They'll ask if you "want everything," then explain what that entails. Almost every item automatically comes with hot sauce, by the way, and it's a delicious slow-burner. When you get your food, they'll go over everything, and if it's packed up to go, they'll throw in some lime wedges. The dedication to the customers feels very special.

While Long Beach is lucky to have a vast selection of Mexican restaurants, both old-school and modern, Joliza's takes the flavor a notch higher. Maybe it's that home-cooked flare. The matriarch makes all the sauces, and the pretty-much-perfect al pastor is marinated in the same spices as the secret red sauce to be smoky and sweet, then charred just on the edges.

Red and green sauces are brought out in two little squeeze bottles to your table. The brick-colored option has a chipotle, mild-heat punch, while the green is bright, fresh, smooth and unabashedly addictive. I couldn't get enough of it; my taco ended up being equal parts green sauce to chicken.

Though Joliza's opened its doors last month, the official grand opening is this weekend. Starting Thursday, July 18 and running through Sunday, there will be buy-one, get-one deals on burritos and tacos, plus giveaways. So whether or not you're in the neighborhood, stop by and have some of the best Mexican food in the city. It's worth traveling for.

**JOLIZA'S**
**2233 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, (562) 612-4200, www.jolizas.com**

PHOTOS BY GREG NAGEL

# Home Is Where the Chai Is

## Memphis Cafe unveils its summer menu

If every restaurant could tell a story, Memphis Cafe's would be scribbled on a crinkled roadhouse napkin with southern gravy dribblings, speckled whiskey stains and grits, and it would be just one word: *home*. I'm sure every OC food-chaser has swung through the crooked-windowed squeaky front door at some point to brunch on the back patio, pony up to the tiny bar, or take a seat in the dimly lit dining room. If you're lucky enough, you've dined in the classic trailer in the gravel parking lot.

"We're coined as a southern place, but our original intent was to be regional American," says chef Diego Velasco, his voice sounding remarkably like Charlie Day on *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

Velasco also offers seasonal specials, and among the handful of summer dishes and cocktails recently unveiled, surprisingly only one hits the plate with a steel slide guitar and southern drawl. The new items include a full hickory barbecue sampler spread and a blackened rib-cap steak.

I wasn't shocked to see cornmeal-breaded, fried Washington oysters, complete with red beans and rice, topped with some cool summer zucchini mignonette. Add a few squirts of Red Rooster hot sauce, then chase it with the cubes of smoked pork belly sitting on the plate as though they're crashing a party.

If you're a fan of shrimp and grits, definitely give the Caledonian prawns a spin. This Baja California-inspired version is probably the only style of a shrimp dish not mentioned in the movie *Forrest Gump*. Tiny young corn are converted into convenient mini elotes, while beady-eyed prawns flex in a pool of green tomato conserva, daring you to rip off their heads and suck out the sweet, fatty bits as if you're playing a kazoo. Mama always said not to play with your food, but damn this is some fun dining.

A must-get is the spice-crusted sea bass that sits atop bok choy and a scallion-ginger pancake. It eats like the pork of the sea, bursting with juices beyond the finely crusted tail fluke towering above the plate. Everything but the bones are edible; our table fought over the crispy, glazed tail fin that eats like umami chips.

Three new drinks join the list of classics. Refirement fills that Negroni void, and Melt Banana has a tiki vibe. But my pick for the summer drink of 2019 is Chai On Fire, in which mezcal, coconut rum, lime, honey, and chai-spiced tea come together in the most refreshing way. Bartender Phil Greyshock seemingly creates easy drinkers out of unlikely combinations. No fancy, clear, hand-chiseled cubes here; just well-crafted drinks worthy of getting a napkin dirty.

### Eat & Drink This Now

» GREG NAGEL

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FROM LEFT PHOTO BY BENJAMIN COOPERSMITH; FILM STILL COURTESY OF ALTON CORP.

# No Talking!

## The modern allure of silent movies coming to local venues

**BY MATT COKER**

Lois Weber was not only one of the first woman film directors, but as proven in the 1913 short *Suspense* she co-directed, she may have also helped invent the split-screen shot. Among the sight gags in *Suds* is a squatting laundry worker played by Mary Pickford being picked up by her neck until she is forced to stand. And there were multiple sequences in *The Black Pirate*—which was shot in two-color Technicolor—showing Douglas Fairbanks plunging a knife into the top of a large sail on a wooden ship as gravity safely glides him down to the deck.

How influential these elements of the early 20th century were for the movies that would follow over the decades may be lost on today's cinema-goers, who yawn at stupendous special effects and seamless computer-animated graphics. But in revisiting *Suspense*, *Suds* and *The Black Pirate*, I wondered several times in each silent film: How did they do that?

You can take part in the same exercise—with the added benefit of a big screen as opposed to my flat-screen—when those flickers roll in Long Beach on Thursday, July 25. (*The Black Pirate* will also be in Santa Ana on July 28, when, just as at the Long Beach stop, the screening includes special live music—but we'll get to that later.)

The Exhibition Room in Long Beach is a speakeasy one enters with a password and through a phone booth, which makes it era-appropriate for quarterly screenings of silent movies in conjunction with the Long Beach Heritage Museum. The next slate reveals the strong role women played in Hollywood's early days: *The Patsy* with Marion Davies, *A Woman of Affairs* with Greta Garbo, Weber and Phillips Smalley's *Suspense*, and industry-powerhouse Pickford's starring turn in *Suds*, as well as *Through the Back Door*.

*Suspense* featured not only split-screen sequences, but also clever uses of mirrors during a car chase and in a shot inside a home. That is where a new mother (played by Weber) draws the creepy attention of a passing tramp (Sam Kaufman). Aware that she and her baby are targets for mayhem, the mother calls her husband (Valentine Paul), whose race to get home as the tramp grows ever nearer creates the suspense of the title.

In Clarence Brown's full-length 1928 drama *A Woman of Affairs*, Garbo's Diana Merrick is a modern woman for that time, having affairs with numerous men following her husband David's (John Mack Brown) suicide on their honeymoon. Before that, Diana grieved her forced separation from her true love Neville Holderness (John Gilbert). Years later, as "Nevs" is about to marry Constance (Dorothy Sebastian), he winds up spending the night with Diana. This sets up a compelling scene the next morning, when Diana, who seems oblivious to the fact that she is in a room full of people, spots Nevs. They embrace and profess their love to each other before Diana, sensing something is not right, whips around to a death stare from Constance. Where the story goes from there defines true love.

*A Woman of Affairs* was a box-office smash that won critical raves for Garbo, *Variety* called it "by long odds the best thing she has ever done." *Suds* is another full-length silent movie, but unlike the Garbo joint, it's a 1920 rom-com, heavy on the com. Pickford plays Amanda Affluck, a poor worker at a French laundry in London, whose lowly status is confirmed by the thick Cockney misspellings on her dialogue intertitles. Horace Greensmith (Albert Austin), who came into the laundry weeks earlier but has not returned, left behind a shirt that smitten Amanda clings to. When her co-workers ridicule her about her obsession, she makes up an elaborate story about how she and Horace are royals who were forced into the streets because her powerful father opposed their coupling. A love triangle (or, if you count a luckless horse, rectangle) develops, and Amanda does eventually wind up in a home of wealth, but not for the reasons she previously bragged about. As for Horace...

And now a word from the venue: The Exhibition Room's silent movie nights used to include hors d'oeuvres and cocktails for $40. However, because of difficulties in getting food into the venue, those tasty bites have been scrubbed, as a result, ticket prices are slashed in half. Anyone who already bought $40 tickets will get a refund, the speakeasy promises.

Douglas Fairbanks Jr., who mistook the petite Pickford for a new playmate when they first met, grew up to play David's brother in *A Woman of Affairs*. Two months after *Suds* was released, Pickford married the senior Fairbanks, and their Pickfair mansion became a place where power and Hollywood mingled. The couple, along with Charlie Chaplin and D.W. Griffith, also went on to form the independent film-distribution company United Artists.

In 1926's *The Black Pirate*, which has a 100 percent Rotten Tomatoes rating, dashing Fairbanks plays an aristocrat who becomes marooned on an island with his father after pirates loot and blow up the ship they had been traveling on. The father later dies, and the son vows revenge for the murder.

As the son weeps on the gravesite he created, the pirate captain (Anders Randolf) and some of his men arrive on the island to bury treasure. Confronting the gang as the "Black Pirate," the aristocrat offers to fight the strongest among them to prove he is worthy of joining them. This leads to a sword fight in which the pirate captain is killed. But when the Black Pirate takes his place on the pirate ship, not everyone trusts him, especially not the pirate lieutenant (Sam De Grasse).

To prove himself even more worthy, the Black Pirate takes over another ship single-handidly. Also aboard is Princess Isobel (Billie Dove), whom the pirate lieutenant claims as his own. The Black Pirate suggests that they get a ransom for her, although he really has other motives.

Making the Long Beach and Santa Ana screenings of *The Black Pirate* even more special will be the live score composed by the leader and conductor of the Jack Curtis Dubowsky Ensemble, which will perform it. Dubowsky previously wrote and led performances of new scores for the silents *Nosferatu*, *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *The Phantom Carriage*, and *The Mark of Zorro*.

"Having done *The Mark of Zorro* in 2017, I felt it was time to do another Douglas Fairbanks adventure," Dubowsky explains. "There is no pirate movie like *The Black Pirate*. It uses many of the same tropes as *Zorro*: the hero in disguise, the noble slumming it with the masses, bad guys who end up being good guys, sword fighting, forbidden romance, the preservation of chivalry and, of course, incredible stunt work."

MCOKER@OCWEEKLY.COM

***THE BLACK PIRATE***

**with Jack Curtis Dubowsky Ensemble at the Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach, (562) 438-5435, orttheatrelongbeach.org. Thurs., July 25, 7 p.m. $15, also at the Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, thefridacinema.org. July 28, 3 & 7 p.m. $15.**

**SILENT FILM SERIES**

**at the Exhibition Room—Long Beach Craft Cocktails, 1117 E. Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, (562) 826-2940, www.theexhibitionroom.com. Thurs., July 25, 8 p.m. $20. 21+.**

# By the Time Winter Comes, I'll Be in Florida

BY MATT COKER

***Kerry Tribe: Double.*** The artist's single-channel video work has five women who nominally resemble one another reflecting on subjects ranging from their impressions of Los Angeles to their participation in this project. *Grand Central Art Center; www.grandcentralartcenter.com. Open Tues.–Thurs., 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Fri.–Sat., 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sun., 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Through Sept. 22. Free.*

***Miss Arizona.*** San Clemente writer/director Autumn McAlpin's 2018 dramedy has trouble showing up at a women's shelter, where a former beauty queen (Johanna Braddy) packs four abused women into her Escalade to escape into the streets of Los Angeles. *AMC Orange 30 at the Outlets, (714) 769-4288. Thurs., July 18. Call for show times. $6.99–$13.79.*

***They're Inside.*** John-Paul Panelli's new found-footage horror flick is about two sisters (Karli Hall and Amanda Kathleen Ward) joining friends in an isolated cabin, where they come to realize they are being filmed by masked strangers (invariably the worst kind). *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., July 18, noon & 10 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

***The Wrestler.*** Mickey Rourke plays an aging wrestler struggling to fit into normal life after being forced into retirement by health issues. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., July 18, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m., Sun., 8:30 p.m. $7.50–$10.50.*

***The Breaking Point.*** A charter-boat captain (John Garfield), who is honest but facing hard times takes on dangerous cargo to save his boat, support his family and preserve his dignity. *Laguna Art Museum, (949) 494-8971. Thurs., July 18, 6 p.m. Free with museum admission, but advance tickets are recommended.*

***Romeo & Juliet.*** Douglas Booth and Hailee Steinfeld star as the couple that secretly marries despite their families hating one another. *Peppertree Park, (714) 573-3226. Thurs., July 18, 7:30 p.m. Free.*

***Paris Is Burning.*** Jennie Livingston's landmark 1990 documentary focuses on New York City's fashion houses and the Latinx and African American drag ball scene of the '80s. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri., 2:30, 6 & 8 p.m., Sat., 6 p.m., Sun., 4, 6 & 8 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

***The Goonies.*** Misfits seek pirate treasure to save their home. *Yorba Regional Park, (714) 973-6628. Fri., 6 p.m. Free, also at Fullerton Public Library, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., July 25, 1 p.m. Free.*

***Incredibles 2.*** Bob Parr/Mr. Incredible (voiced by Craig T. Nelson) takes care of the kids while his wife, Helen/Elastigirl (Holly Hunter), is out saving the world. *William Peak Park, (714) 562-3960. Fri., 7 p.m. Free; also at Orange Public Library & History Center, (714) 288-2420. Thurs., July 25, 2 p.m. Free.*

***The Lego Movie 2: The Second Part.*** Lego Duplo space invaders are wrecking everything. *Cliff Drive Park, (949) 270-8100. Fri., 7 p.m. Free, also at Grand Park, (949) 243-7750. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Free, Hurless Barton Park, (714) 961-7192. Sat., 8 p.m. Free, and Cedar Grove Park, (714) 573-3226. Thurs., July 25, 8 p.m. Free.*

***The Princess Bride.*** Swashbuckler Westley (Cary Elwes) tries to save his childhood sweetheart, Buttercup (Robin Wright), from marrying a royal douchebag. Families can arrive early to make art before the outdoor screening, where popcorn and cocktails can be purchased from a bar. *Bowers Museum, bowers.org Fri., 6 p.m. $5–$15.*

***Spider-Man: Into the Spiderverse.*** A young teen (voiced by Shameik Moore) actually becomes his hero. Then come Spidey's foes from other dimensions. *Orange County Great Park; ocgp.org. Fri., doors open, 6:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

***The Emperor's New Groove.*** An arrogant young emperor (voiced by David Spade) who was turned into a llama and stranded in the jungle teams up with a peasant (John Goodman) to recapture the throne. *Stoddard Park, publicaffairs.disneyland.com/community/celebratesummer/. Fri., 7:45 p.m. Free.*

***The Greatest Showman.*** P.T. Barnum (Hugh Jackman) rose from nothing to create a circus and worldwide sensation. *Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort & Marina, (949) 729-3863. Fri., dusk. Free, but there is a fee to park.*

***Horrors of Malformed Men.*** A medical student escapes from an insane asylum and assumes the identity of a dead man (who happens to be his doppelgänger), then is lured to an island ruled by a mad scientist and his malformed men. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.–Sat., 10 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

***The Wild Bunch.*** William Holden leads a cast of veteran actors playing aging outlaws looking for one last big score as the "traditional" American West disappears around them. *The Frida Cinema; thefridacinema.org. Sat., 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., Sun., 11:30 a.m., 2:30 & 5:30 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

**Pacquiao vs. Thurman.** The World Welterweight Championship fight is beamed into theaters live from Las Vegas. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sat., 6 p.m. $20.*

***Gremlins 2: The New Batch.*** Billy (Zach Galligan) and his fiance Kate (Phoebe Cates) have traded their small town for New York City, where their employer has, unknowingly to them, turned lovable mogwai Gizmo into an unwilling guinea pig for secret lab experiments. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Sat., 7:30 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

***Jumanji.*** Two kids play a magical board game that unleashes seemingly unstoppable forces into the lives of a makeshift family headed by Robin Williams. *Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina, (949) 729-3863. Sat., dusk. Free, but there is a fee to park.*

***Glory.*** Denzel Washington plays a runaway slave who joins the first black regiment to fight for the North in the Civil War. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Sun., 1 & 4 p.m.; Wed., 4 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

***Midnight Cowboy.*** Wide-eyed Texas hustler Joe Buck (John Voight) and sickly swindler Enrico "Ratzo" Rizzo (Dustin Hoffman) form an unlikely friendship. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Mon.–Tues., 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

***This Changes Everything.*** This new documentary focuses on the history, empirical evidence and systemic forces that foster gender discrimination. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Mon., 7:30 p.m. $12.50.*

***Despicable Me 3.*** The mumble-mouthed Minions want back their old crime boss, but the fired Gru (voiced by Steve Carrell) considers himself retired. *Cinepolis Luxury Cinemas Laguna Niguel at Ocean Ranch Village, (949) 373-7300; also at Cinepolis Luxury Cinemas Rancho Santa Margarita at Santa Margarita Town Center, (949) 635-1888. Tues. & Thurs., July 18, 10 a.m. $6 (includes movie and snack pack with popcorn, fruit gummies and a small drink).*

***The Lego Movie.*** An ordinary Lego construction worker (voiced by Chris Pratt) is recruited to join a quest to stop an evil tyrant (Will Ferrell) from gluing the Lego universe into eternal stasis. *Various Regal/Edwards theaters; regmovies.com. Tues., 10 a.m. $1.*

***Arrow of the Orion.*** Katsushi Sakurabi's new anime asks: Is it wrong to try to pick up girls in a dungeon? *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $12.50.*

***Back to the Future.*** Michael J. Fox plays a teen who travels back in time to when his parents were still in high school. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

***Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie.*** Two overly imaginative prankster (voiced by Kevin Hart and Thomas Middleditch) hypnotize their principal (Ed Helms) into thinking he's a ridiculously enthusiastic, incredibly dimwitted superhero. *Various Regal/Edwards theaters; regmovies.com. Wed., 10 a.m. $1.*

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***Black Swan.*** Natalie Portman plays a ballerina who is pushed into exploring her dark side to the point of recklessness after entering a twisted friendship with a rival new dancer (Mila Kunis). *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed.–Thurs., July 24–25, 2:30, 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7–$10.50.*

***Like a Woman.*** Faezeh Hahsemi, the daughter of Iran's powerful former president, is a brave activist for women's and Baha'i rights in her fundamentalist country. *UC Irvine, bit.ly/2NwuewB. Wed., 6:30 p.m. Free, but RSVP required.*

***The Outlaw Josey Wales.*** Clint Eastwood plays a Missouri farmer who joins a Confederate guerrilla unit and winds up on the run from Union soldiers who murdered his family. *Starlight Cinema City, (714) 970-6700. Wed., 7 p.m. $6–$12.*

***Monty Python and the Holy Grail.*** Follow Arthur, Sir Lancelot the Brave and Sir Robin the Not So-Brave-as-Sir-Lancelot as they follow God's directive to find the Holy Grail. *South Coast Village, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

***Boom for Real: The Late Teenage Years of Jean-Michel Basquiat.*** Sara Driver explores the celebrated American artist's pre-fame years. Bring blankets and refreshments. *Granada Beach, powwowlongbeach.com. Wed., 8 p.m. Free.*

***The Muppet Movie.*** After a fateful meeting with a big-time talent agent in a Southern swamp, Kermit T. Frog heads for Hollywood to be a star. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., July 25, 12:30 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

***The Secret of Holy Fire: The Sacred Fire Temple at Takht-e Soleyman.*** Ali Shahriarpour's documentary examines a historically significant northwestern Iran area. *UCI, (949) 824-6117. Thurs., July 25, 6 p.m. Free.*

***The Black Pirate.*** See "No Talking," page 20. *Art Theatre, arttheatrelongbeach.org. Thurs., July 25, 7 p.m. $15.*

***The Lost World: Jurassic Park.*** John Hammond (Richard Attenborough) sends a team (that includes Jeff Goldblum and Julianne Moore) back to Isla Sorna to document the freely roaming prehistoric animals to ensure their survival. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., July 25, 7:30 p.m. $15.*

**The Exhibition Room Silent Film Series.** See "No Talking," page 20. *The Exhibition Room—Long Beach Craft Cocktails; www.theexhibitionroom.com. Thurs., July 25, 8 p.m. $20. 21+*

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# Abstract Empathy

## Irvine Fine Arts Center offers two different looks into our society

BY DAVE BARTON

The monstrosity that He Who Shall Not Be Named likes to tweet about will never be built, but it haunts and distracts us regularly, whether on the news or as the initial discussion that reveals a host of previously unspoken ugliness in our families and friends. As ICE raids are announced and never come to pass— terrorist threats intended to inflict fear—it's time for artists to take a stand, make work about it and see if they can leech out whatever empathy might be left from an exhausted public.

"Place & Displace," an exhibition of Carlos Beltran Arechiga's mixed-media paintings at Irvine Fine Arts Center, addresses that fatigue, albeit in abstract form. In his "Border Angels" series, the Mexico-born American artist creates large canvases referencing areas of immigration, international—the Mediterranean island of Lampedusa—and within the United States, including the Rio Grande; Casa Padre in Brownsville, Texas, and Camino del Diablo in Arizona.

Describing the paintings is where we run into trouble. A collage of paint (oil, enamel and acrylic), staining and added material, the canvases often resemble a sort of Dalí-esque melding of Trevor Key's cover art for Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells* album, architectural silhouettes, and backgrounds of pink and blue (water and sky). The paintings explode buildings, landmarks and landscapes into pieces, taking apart areas now associated with injustice, then leaving them to fly, float and swirl into the air. They're occasionally identifiable as structures, sometimes people at loose ends with their environment, but mostly presented as discombobulated piles of unidentifiable objects, curves, lines and bars. I don't believe many of the paintings would be identifiable as much of anything without their titles.

I'm sympathetic to what Arechiga is trying to do here, even if I don't much care for the work itself. They're not particularly attractive paintings, despite the dizzy quality of their accumulated marks and splats—with the exception of the largest painting, *Border Angels-Border Field State Park*, which can be read as a representation of multiple human beings stuffed behind the bars of a jail cell, and two paintings that are deconstructed human faces, *Seb* and *Betty*. These bring a level of humanity into what otherwise blends into a kind of collage soup.

The abstractions pose a problem. Why represent something so concrete—detention centers, rivers and land masses—so indistinctly? If the reality of the situation is as awful as I believe it is, by abstracting things, even with the limited but helpful accompanying notes from curator Virginia Arce on the Center's post cards … isn't it just helping an already-apathetic public from further connecting with it? By allowing a sympathetic audience to hold the situation at arm's length, instead of bringing them into the furor, it just keeps the brain death going, when it should be calling it out.

FROM LEFT: *CASA PADRE TEXAS III* BY CARLOS BELTRAN AND *LXS BLANCXS III* BY EDUARDO AISPURO/COURTESY OF IRVINE FINE ARTS CENTER

In the smaller Gallery I and the lobby, our fractured society is dealt with more poetically, though still abstractly—and, I'd argue, more directly—by the dual exhibition "Time Under Tension. Eduardo Aispuro & Patricia Liverman."

Aispuro's bulky works contain with their frame trapped elements trying to push through the thin surface of the canvas. The silky undulations of the white (*Lxs Blancxs*) and untitled chestnut canvases resemble ridges and buttes trapped under a sheet of smooth acrylic, the bumps and bumps beneath indistinctly smothered by their cover. Whether they're budding ideas burbling under the surface and awaiting their chance or cancers and tumors fighting for power under the surface of white and auburn skins, it's a building up of the moment before the eruption.

Liverman's evocative, even emotional, layered paintings speak to the moment afterward, when the skin splinters, the layered edges sharply slicing through the soft, once-even-tempered blackness, small razor mountains eviscerating one another. Liverman slips and stacks the tiny squares cut from old, painted canvases against one another and under the layers of new canvases, ultimately creating paintings with histories, previously unseen memories now uprooted and inserted into a new piece. Looked at geographically, even after the recent earthquakes, they're hopeful, suggesting new worlds being built atop the old, a fresh topography breaking free.

As a metaphor or political statement—and this is my reading, not necessarily the artist's—the canvases work on a far deeper level. It's an ardent argument against the closet of containment, physical and mental, a stylized representation of the ultimately life-changing/life-mangling blowback resulting from repression and a warning of the blowback to come.

**"CARLOS BELTRAN ARECHIGA: PLACE & DISPLACE" AND "TIME UNDER TENSION: EDUARDO AISPURO & PATRICIA LIVERMAN"**
**at Irvine Fine Arts Center, Heritage Community Park, 14321 Yale Ave., Irvine, (949) 724-6880, irvinefinearts.org. Open Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Aug. 10. Free.**

## ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

### July 19-25

***BUGSY MALONE*:** This musical tribute to the gangster films of the 1920s features a tiny pinstriped mobster named Bugsy Malone. Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m. Sun., 2 p.m. $12-$35. No Square Theatre, 384 Legion St., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-0333, www.nosquare.org.

***THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR*:** On the Edge Theatre takes the Bard's romantic comedy and sets it in the 1930s for Shakespeare in the Hills. The performance is outside, so guests are advised to bring blankets and chairs. Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m. Through Aug. 3. $18. Laguna Hills Community Center, 25555 Alicia Pkwy., Laguna Hills, www.ntetheatre.com.

***HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING—A MUSICAL COMEDY*:** This Tony Award-winning satirical farce is about a window washer who uses a business handbook to climb the corporate ladder. Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m. Sun., 2 p.m. Through Aug. 11. $20-$27. Rosa Center Theater, 14140 All American Way, Westminster, (714) 793-1150, www.facebook.com/rosacentertheater.

***STRONG ARM*:** Wyn Moreno adapts Anton Chekhov's *The Seagull* for this play about a famous tennis star and the lives of her professional sports-playing family. Fri.-Sat., 7:30 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m., July 24 7:30 p.m. Through July 28. $15-$25. Grand Central Art Center, 125 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, (657) 205-6273, www.thawaywardartist.org.

***RICHARD III*:** William Shakespeare's play about a ruthless king who manipulates his rise to power. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m. Sun., 8 p.m. Through Aug. 17. $10-$20. Maverick Theater, 118 E. Walnut Ave., Fullerton, (714) 526-7070, www.mavericktheater.com.

***THE WHO'S TOMMY*:** The classic rock opera focuses on a deaf, blind boy with an innate ability to win at pinball. Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m., Thursday, July 25, 8 p.m. Through July 28. $25. Costa Mesa Playhouse, 661 Hamilton St., Costa Mesa, (949) 650-5269, www.costamesaplayhouse.com.

**"FIELD NOTES: WHEN TAXONOMY BECOMES ICONOGRAPHY":** Printmaker Linda Lyke presents close observations of nature that inspire the world around her. Open Tues.-Sun., noon-4 p.m. Through Aug. 4. Free. The Muckenthaler Cultural Center & Gardens, 1201 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton, (714) 773-6565, themuck.org.

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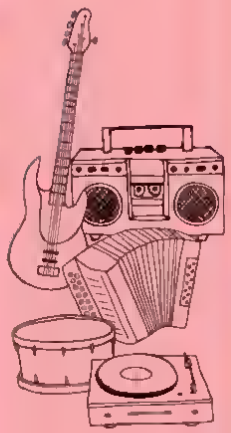

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COURTESY OF STATIC-X

# Clinging to Static

## Static-X shows honor fallen front man Wayne Static

**BY ALEX DISTEFANO**

In late 2014, when Static-X front man Wayne Static tragically passed away from an overdose of prescription drugs and alcohol, the world of heavy metal—and rock music—was devastated.

Bands such as Megadeth, Sevendust, Fear Factory and Papa Roach, as well as rock stars Billy Corgan and Dave Navarro, grieved the loss of 48-year-old Static (born Wayne Richard Wells).

But as the band's debut, *Wisconsin Death Trip*, marks its 20th anniversary, the remaining members of the original lineup have reunited for a U.S. tour in tribute to their fallen brother. Guitarist Koichi Fukada, drummer Ken Jay and bassist Tony Campos are joined by the masked front man Xero, rumored to be Edsel Dope from the band DOPE. Even with the disguise on, Xero displays Static's trademark vertical mohawk and chin-tail beard. Campos would neither confirm nor deny the identity of the mysterious singer.

"All of us in the band are really excited to play these shows," Campos says. "The fan response has been great so far. It's also been very emotional, and some people at shows have been crying. We are playing the majority of the songs off *Wisconsin Death Trip* and some songs from other albums, too. . . . We've heard nothing but good things."

Though the group had in essence disbanded at the time of Static's death, Campos says these shows have been about the front man's legacy. "This tour has been a really bittersweet experience for me so far," Campos says. "Being in the same room with Kenny and Koichi and playing on the same stage again with them was really cool. We haven't played together for a long time, so it was great to reunite.

"Now, obviously, Static-X is missing a pretty important guy in our lineup, but for me at least, being with my old band mates and sharing memories has been great. We've been sharing lots of memories we had with Wayne. These come up after the show, before the show and even during the show."

According to Campos, the music acts as a way to keep his friend's spirit alive. "To be honest, during the shows sometimes, I'll have these lucid moments where I catch Xero out of the corner of my eye, and I'll think for a split second it's Wayne, but then I remember," he says. "I do get those vibes playing these songs live."

The tour's final stops in Santa Ana and Los Angeles also promote the yet-to-be-released album *Project Regeneration*, which uses vocal tracks recorded years before Static's untimely death. Among the guests featured are Ivan Moody (Five Finger Death Punch), Dope, Burton Bell (Fear Factory), David Draiman (Disturbed) and Al Jourgensen (Ministry).

"We know there has been a delay on this album, but the majority of the record is done," Campos says. "It's going to be a really cool release, but we want to make sure it's done right and sounds right, so it will be released when it's ready. But it will be a great way to honor Wayne's memory."

The downtown Los Angeles show is understandably sold out. "We got our start in LA years ago, so it will be really cool to end this tour playing shows for all our family, friends and fans in Southern California," says Campos, who stepped away as the bass player for Ministry to put together the Static-X tour. He also has played bass in Soulfly and is still a member of Asesino. But he is unsure about Static-X's future once this tour ends.

"Well, after these shows, and then when the record comes out, we're not sure what our plans are yet," Campos says. "When all is said and done, we'll have to see what happens. You never know. But in terms of playing more live shows or doing more tours, if it's something the fans want, we're not opposed to it."

**STATIC X**

**perform with Devildriver and DOPE at the Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600, www.observatoryoc.com. Thurs., July 27, 6:25 p.m. $25. All ages.**

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JERRY D. PHOTOGRAPHY

# OG Cuicide Is Forever

## New album pulls from his roles as family man, former gangbanger and suicide preventionist

BY STEVE DONOFRIO

Nearly 30 years ago, Darnell Price attempted to take his own life. After spending much of his adolescence selling drugs, gangbanging and essentially being homeless, he saw a loaded handgun as his only choice. As some of his friends looked on in horror, the then-22-year-old pulled the trigger. He later awoke at a hospital to find that the bullet, although permanently lodged in his skull, had not penetrated his brain. Not long after, a friend convinced him to start rapping over some beats, and Price found his purpose. He soon adopted the ironic moniker OG Cuicide.

Since then, Cuicide has spread his message of positivity and persistence through full-length albums, singles and mixtapes. He has also dedicated countless hours to bringing proper suicide-prevention techniques to schools and youth groups. Last month, he premiered on BET Jams a new music video for the song "Know My Pain," a relatable, uplifting anthem for anyone who feels alone in whatever personal struggles they might be facing.

His latest album, *OGs Are Forever*, continues his mission. The storyteller connects with his audience through 19 songs that reflect his personal experiences, his signature gritty voice and distinctive flow carrying a certain wisdom.

While it does have a healthy dose of infectious melodic hooks and thumpy, bass-driven grooves in the classic West Coast G-funk style, the album also features some experimentation—from rapping over a beat that's built almost entirely around an acoustic guitar to adopting a more contemporary trap vibe.

The album's first track, "December 31, 1991," is a spine-chilling re-enactment of that fateful day, complete with an audible heartbeat, gunshot and subsequent hospital sound effects. Although it does set a somber and serious tone, the next track, "On My Grind (featuring Indee B)," is an uplifting anthem about working hard to achieve your goals.

"Rebellion" and "Everything" were written for one of his sons and his wife, respectively. While the latter is essentially a love note/thank you to his wife, the lyrics to the former read like any father's advice to his children. "I ain't trying to run your life, I'm just trying to lead/I'm your father, not your homeboys in the street/When I speak, all I ask is that you listen/Don't let it in one ear and out the other drivin'."

However, the track "Triple Death" shows a very different side of the artist, one before he became an inspirational speaker and family man. The lyrics paint a picture of a much younger man who thought gangbanging was his only option, set to one of the most irresistibly head-bobbing beats on the album and with a feature from Kali Red.

*OGs Are Forever* also has a few party songs that aren't difficult to imagine hearing in a club. The funniest three-and-a-half minutes on the album are contained in "Shut Shit Down," and the climactic final track, "Homage," with G-funk legend Kurupt, features a string of catchy choruses and a beat that's impossible to get sick of.

Since moving to Buena Park in 2001, Cuicide has been on his grind as an entrepreneur, family man and suicide-prevention advocate. But regardless of the role he fills on any given day, the rapper will always be an OG.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

COURTESY OF OC FAIR

## Friday

**AUGUST BURNS RED, SILVERSTEIN, SILENT PLANET** 7 p.m., $29.50, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim, (714) 778-2583; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

**FALSE CONFESSION, CHEMICAL X, CLIT KAT, CAPITAL WASTELAND, HIGHGROUND** 7:30 p.m. $10, all ages. Chain Reaction, 1652 W. Lincoln Ave., Anaheim. (714) 635-6067, allages.com

**FULL PETTY FEVER—TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY** 7:30 p.m. free, all ages. The Slidebar Rock N-Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 871-2233; slidebarfullerton.com

**HENRY KAPONO, KARLY MORENO,** 8 p.m. $25, all ages. The Coach House, 33157 Camino Capistrano, Ste. C, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 496-8930; thecoachhouse.com.

**MOZZY, ALLBLACK, STUPIDYOUNG** 8 p.m., $20-$50, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com.

**PURPLE FUZZ MACHINE, NORTH BY NORTH, LURE LOWW** 7 p.m. free, 21+. The Continental Room, 115 E. Santa Fe Ave., Fullerton, (713) 525-4529; continentalroom.eventbrite.com.

**SEGA GENECIDE** 9 p.m., $8, 21+. The Wayfarer, 843 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0038; wayfarercm.com.

**SPIRIT GHOST, SASHA AND THE VALENTINES, SHAMEFACE** 6 p.m., free, all ages. Programme Skate & Sound, 2495 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, (714) 758-7565; www.programmehq.com.

**ZIGGY MARLEY, TOOTS AND THE MAYTALS:** 7:30 p.m. $35, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre, 88 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1500, panamp.com.

## Saturday

**THE DAN BAND** 7 p.m., $20, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

**DON CARLOS, BETTER CHEMISTRY, CALIFA, SCARLETT AND THE FEVER** 8 p.m. $20, all ages. Gardee Amp, 12762 Main St., Garden Grove, (949) 415-9544, gardeeamp.com

**ORUNN, MUMS, PASTE, FLYING MACHINE, REO THEME** 8 p.m. $8, 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com.

**HINDER, HIPNOSTIC, ELEVENTH MOURNING.** 8 p.m., $20, all ages. The Coach House; thecoachhouse.com.

**TEXAS INVASION TOUR, FEATURING THE BOLEYS, MODULAR SUN** 7:30 p.m. free, 21+. The Continental Room, continentalroom.eventbrite.com.

**TUXEDO; FUNK FREAKS** 8 p.m. $22-$79, all ages. The Observatory, www.observatoryoc.com

## Sunday

**BREWFISH** 5 p.m., free, all ages. The Slidebar Rock N Roll Kitchen, slidebarfullerton.com

**DABABY; STUNNA 4 VEGAS, BLACC ZACC.** 8 p.m., $25-$75, all ages. The Observatory, www.observatoryoc.com.

**HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR, FEATURING THE TURTLES, GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP, THE RUCKINGHAMS, THE COWSILLS.** 8 p.m., $25, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre, pacamp.com.

**MAX FROST** 7 p.m. $15, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

**PROFESSOR COLOMBO, THE OIALATORS.** 4 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com.

**RARITY; WEST MEANS HOME, SLAVES TO HUMANITY, TOMORROWS EFFECT, IRIDESCENT, THE INDECISIVE, THE ATLANTIC VOYAGER.** 6:30 p.m., $12, all ages. Chain Reaction, allages.com.

**ROTU PRESENTS: REUNION 004, FEATURING GYPSY MAMBA, BRYZEN, SWANZU, CHIP MONK** 9 p.m., free, 21+. The Continental Room, continentalroom.eventbrite.com

## Monday

**EMAEL, THRIFT, COSMIC MUSIC.** 8 p.m., free, 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com

**OLIVIA ROHDE** 8 p.m. free, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

**SONODA, RAT FANCY, FLYING FISH COVE.** 9 p.m. free, 21+. The Continental Room, continentalroom.eventbrite.com

## Tuesday

**FLASHBACK HEART ATTACK.** 5 p.m., free, all ages. Fairview Park, 2501 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa, www.costamesafoundation.org

**ONE OK ROCK—EYE OF THE STORM TOUR** 6:30 p.m. $29.50, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardeeWalk, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

**RINGO DEATHSTARR:** 9 p.m., $13, all ages. La Santa Bar, 220 E. Third St., Santa Ana, (714) 544-1995; www.lasantabar.com

**RMR, THE HOLLOW FORTYFIVES, SECOND RATE KINGS** 9 p.m. free, 21+. The Continental Room, continentalroom.eventbrite.com.

## Wednesday

**BRISTOL TO MEMORY; NOISE RRIGAOE, FOR THE RECORD, IRIDESCENT** 6:30 p.m., $7, all ages. Programme Skate & Sound, www.programmehq.com.

**JAIL WEDDINGS, ROSELIT BONE, SLAUGHTERHOUSE, STORMHOUSE** 8 p.m., $10, 21+. The Wayfarer, wayfarercm.com

**LUCY R LA MER; THE FRICK FRACKS, GIRL HAZEL** 8 p.m., free, 21+. The Continental Room, continentalroom.eventbrite.com

**POUYA, RAMIREZ, BOORIE LOOTAVELI** 6 p.m., $29, all ages. The Observatory, wwwobservatoryoc.com.

**STYX.** 8:15 p.m., $27.50, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre, pacamp.com.

## Thursday, July 25

**R BOYS, BODEGA, SHARR TOYS** 9 p.m., $10, all ages. The Constellation Room, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600; www.observatoryoc.com

**BROTHERS OSBORNE, CHASE BRYANT** 7:30 p.m., $40, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre, pacamp.com.

**JONATHAN MCREYNOLDS—MAREMOREROOMTOUR.** 7 p.m. $20, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk; www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

**JOY NOISE, CARDBOARD BOXER, MAMMOTH BLOOM** 7 p.m. free, all ages. The Locker Room at Gardee Amp, gardeeamp.com


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## Deep Cucks

**I am a bi, white, married man who's 35 years old and living in a big Midwestern city. I'd like to know what's going on in my psyche—from a sex-research perspective. I've been hung up on cuckold fantasies with my female partner for years now. I'm tired of creative fantasizing in bed, and my partner enjoys this as well. But one times out of 10, I'm spinning a yarn about her fucking other men. These fantasies took an unexpected turn when I asked her to share stories about people she fucked in the past. She obliged—and holy shit, was I turned on. The only unfortunate thing is that she did not have many great sexual experiences in the past, so she feels like there is not a lot to share. I know others have similar kinks, but it seems so antithetical to the heteronormative expectations of what I should be turned on by.**

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"Why am I like this?" questions are always rabbit holes," said Dr. David Ley, a clinical psychologist, author and sex researcher. "We create rich, satisfying stories that are really just a form of mental masturbation, when the truth is, at least at this point, we really have no clear idea why people have any of the unique sexual fantasies they do." (Dr. Ley literally wrote the book on cuckolding: *Insatiable Wives: Women Who Stray and the Men Who Love Them.*)

One popular explanation for why being cuckolded might turn a man on was the "sperm competition" theory. To quickly summarize: A man who suspects his female partner recently had sex with another male—and whose reptile brain believes the other man's semen might be "present" inside her—will have a more powerful and voluminous orgasm when he next mates with his female partner in an effort to "flood out" his competitor's semen. For a time, many sex researchers theorized that male swingers and cuckolds were subconsciously inducing "sperm competition" reactions—i.e., they were in it for the more powerful orgasms.

"Unfortunately, much of the research into sperm competition is now suspect, due to a failure to replicate many of these findings," said Dr. Ley. "So to a degree, we're now saying, 'You know, it's complicated: everyone is different, and there are no simple answers.'"

And now that we've said that, FREED. Dr. Ley, who has worked with many cuckold couples, has noticed patterns, and he's willing to put out some alternative theories of his own.

"Many cuckolds have a desire to engage bisexually with other men, using their wife's body as a sort of proxy," said Dr. Ley. "Given that FREED is a bi male in a heterosexual relationship, these cuckold fantasies might be a way for him to express his bisexuality while including his wife. Additionally, vicarious erotic fulfillment is often a central component in many cuckold fantasies. This goes beyond simple voyeurism—and FREED's comment about his wife's regret at not having enough sexual experiences to share offers us a clue in this direction. Many cuckolds celebrate their partners being sexually unrestrained. FREED might just be turned on by the idea of his wife cutting loose and sharing that supercharged erotic energy with other partners—past, present and future."

Finally, FREED, I wanted to add a "ding, ding, ding" to something you mentioned at the end of your letter. The erotic power of doing something that seems antithetical to the heteronormative and/or vanilla-normative expectations heaped on us by culture, religion, family, etc. should never be underestimated.

## SavageLove

» DAN SAVAGE

While not everyone is turned on by the thought of transgressing against sexual or social norms, a significant percentage is. So long as our normative-busting transgressive turn-ons can be realized with other consenting adults, we should worry less about the "why" and more about the "when," "where" and "how." (Now, in private and safely!)

**I'm a 35-year-old married man with two beautiful small children. I knew I was a cuckold before I met my wife. As soon as things got somewhat serious, I made this very clear. While we were dating, she cockolded me multiple times and seemed very accepting of the idea. I remember very clearly on the day of our elopement discussing that this was more than a kink for me—it was central to my sexuality, and I needed her buy-in before committing for life. We played a time or two after we got married, but my wife's interest in the lifestyle greatly decreased. After we had children, her interest in cuckolding evaporated. It's entirely gone. I accepted this for some time due to having young children. When I broached the subject recently, she expressed legitimate concerns around STIs, pregnancy and being "found out" by friends/family. I don't want to pressure her into having sex with others, but I'm hurt and frustrated. I can't help but feel like I had a bait-and-switch pulled on me. What do I do? Be thankful for the things I do have? Ask to go to a sex-positive therapist? Ask for a divorce?**

***Cuckold Has Understandable Regrets Now***

Cuckolding may be something you need. CHURN, but it's something you're asking the wife to do. And the doing presents more risks for her—the risks of STIs and pregnancy fall entirely on her, as she pointed out. And if people were to find out (or suspect) she was sleeping around, the "shame" and potential social ostracism would fall entirely on her, too. Even if you were to tell anyone who found out that it was consensual and/or that you were a cuckold, it's not like she wouldn't still be shamed or ostracized. Judgmental family and friends would just heap equal portions of shame on you, too.

To your credit, you acknowledged the legitimacy of your wife's concerns. And I'm going to acknowledge the legitimacy of your frustrations: You told her before you eloped that you needed this to be happy, and she didn't just agree to it—she was (or seemed) enthused about it. I might be inclined to see this as a bait-and-switch myself if you didn't have children. Even the most adventurous people—sexual or otherwise—tend to become risk-averse when their children are young. Instead of threatening to divorce her (which would amount to pressuring her), I would encourage you to find a sex-positive counselor who can help you two talk about what your sex life can look like once your children are a little older.

If she can express it without being expected to act on it tomorrow, my hunch is your wife can see cuckolding you again once your kids are older. In the meantime, CHURN, content yourself with hot memories of all the times the wife cuckolded you in the past and hot, dirty talk about all the times she's going cuckold you in the future.

*On the* Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), summer sex toys with Erika Moen. Contact Dan via mail@savagelove.net, follow him on Twitter @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org.*

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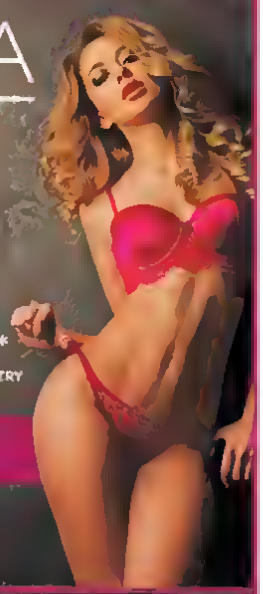

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## Toke of the Week

» JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

### Apex Extractions

COURTESY OF APEXEXTRACTIONS.COM

Have you ever gone to your local dispensary and anxiously waited in line for what seemed like forever only to be disappointed by the selection or pricing? And in the typical distribution process, it can take weeks for products to get from the places where they are manufactured to the dispensaries where you purchase them. During that time, you risk losing the brilliant flavor and intensity that sets a good experience apart from a great one.

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Right now, the service is available via ApexExtractions.com to anyone age 21 or older who is a resident of California. If you sign up for the Fresh Club ($139, including taxes and delivery costs), you're looking at saving more than enough of your hard-earned cash to finally buy that above-ground spa you've been eyeing at the OC Fair every year. And with a new box from Apex each month, it will be easy to keep the party going well into the night. Just make sure you invite me.

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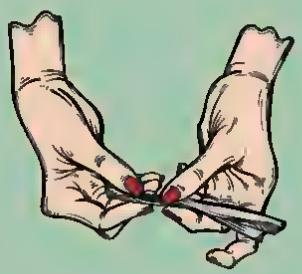

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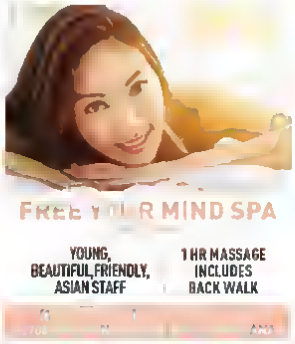
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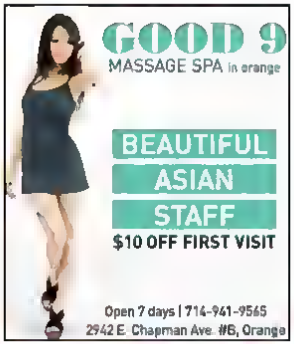
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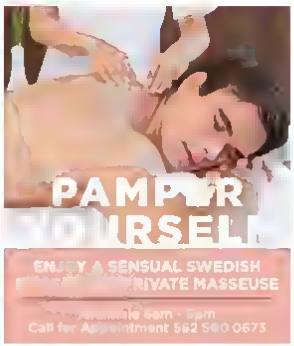
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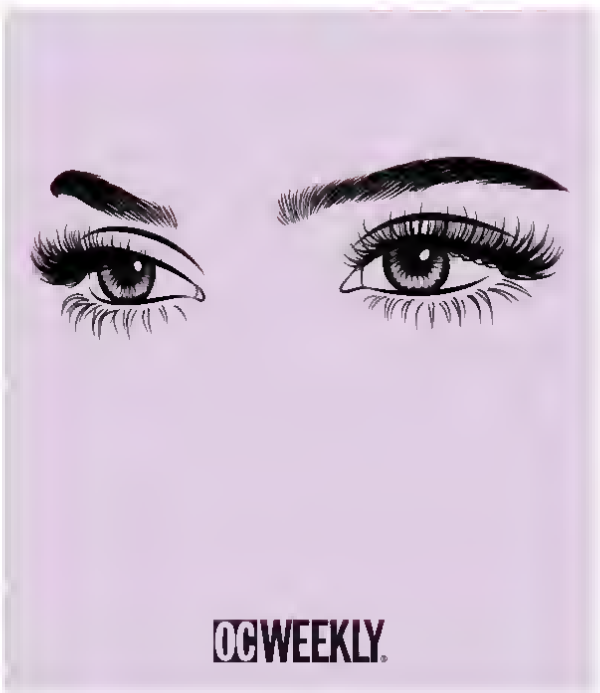
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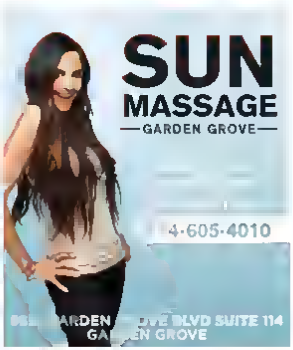
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**Preschool Teacher:** Teach preschool aged children. Req'd: Bachelor's In Education, Child Devel. Liberal Arts or related. Mail Resume: DREAMLAND PRESCHOOL, INC. 5101 Walnut Ave. Irvine, CA 92604

Accountant. Apply by mail to: Lee & Co. CPA, 30 Corporate Park, #315, Irvine, CA 92606, attn: President

Senior Software Engineer. Develop S/W solutions for bus. sys. BS in CE or equiv. + 2 yr exp in CE req'd. Send resume to: Solomon America, Inc., 10540 Talbert Ave., Ste. 110, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

**Chief Financial Officer** Zen Within Inc has an opening in Costa Mesa, CA. CFO management: budgets & forecasting + systems & process. 10% dom & int'l travel req'd. Submit resume (pnnopals only) to: sarah.glubka@planetinnovation.com.au & include recruitment source + job title in subject line. EOE

Manager I QA Product Release. Req. Bach. in Engineering Management, Ind. Engineering, or rel + 5 yr exp. Use knowledge of SAP, BDCDS, and FDA regulations to manage the activities of product release. E/T: B. Braun Medical Inc. Irvine, CA. Mail resume to A. Sutter, 824 12th Ave., Bethleham, PA 18018 & ref. job #6218. Principals only. No calls. No visa sponsorship.

Architectural Designer (Irvine, CA). Resp. for arch. project planning, design & specs. Req: Bach. in Arch + 6 mos. exp. Mail Resumes: HPA, Inc., Ref. Job #ADES001, 18831 Bardeen Ave., #100, Irvine, CA 92612

**Lead Software Engineer** (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA). FT. Translate business requirements into designs and demonstrable wireframes. Dev apps using Javascript Object model/DOM manipulation & Server-side Node JS. Dv dynamic web apps & maintain cloud transcoding farm on AWS. Dev Sharepoint apps and custom components. Requires Master's in Comp Sci or rltd. with 2 yrs exp in the job. as SW Engineer. SW Developer and/or rltd. At least 1 yr exp. w/ Javascript Object Model. SharePoint Application Development, React JS. Mail Resume to: Matthew Cook, Aberdeen Captioning, 30071 Tomas Ste. 100, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

**Sr. Engineering Specialist** – E3 Automation. Req: Bachelor's (or foreq uiv.) in Ind. Automation., Mech. Engg. or rel. engg. field + 6 or 8 yrs. rel. exp. w/o degree. Use exp. w/ PLC, SCADA, Vision Systems, robotics, Comp. System Validation & project management to research, develop & prepare specs for technical solutions for the manufacture & packaging of pharmaceutical products. 25% travel. E/T: B. Braun Medical Inc. Irvine, CA. Mail resume to A. Sutter, 824 12th Ave., Bethleham, PA 18018 & ref. job #6218. Principals only. No calls. No visa sponsorship.

Lead Software Engineer (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA). FT. Translate business requirements into designs and demonstrable wireframes. Dev. apps using Javascript Object model/DOM manipulation & Server-side Node JS. Dv. dynamic web apps & maintain cloud transcoding farm on AWS. Dev. Sharepoint apps and custom components. Requires Master's in Comp Sci or rltd. with 2 yrs exp in the job. as SW Engineer. SW Developer and/or rltd. At least 1 yr exp. w/ Javascript Object Model. SharePoint Application Development. React JS. Mail Resume to: Matthew Cook, Aberdeen Captioning, 30071 Tomas Ste. 100, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

Accountant. Apply by mail to: James Y. Lee & Co. Accountancy Corp., 2455 Michelle Dr., #200, Irvine, CA 92606, attn: CEO

Marketing Specialist (Entry Level)

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**Staff Accountant** Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or Accounting req., $51,138/yr F/T. Resume to Andrew Je, JNK Accountancy Group, LLP, 9465 Garden Grove Blvd. Suite 200, Garden Grove, CA 92844

Concerto Healthcare Inc. of Aliso Viejo, CA seeks a Sr. Solutions Engineer. Reqs: Bachelor's Degree in Comp. Sci., Comp. Engr., or related & 5 yrs. of exp. as a Salesforce Administrator, Software Developer or Programmer using Salesforce. Sales & Service cloud configuration, Salesforce toolkit & Force.com platform technologies. Must be a Certified Salesforce Developer. Resumes to: Concerto Healthcare Inc., Miranda Gaines, 85 Enterprise, Suite 200, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

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Acupuncturist (Buena Park, CA). Diagnose patient's condition based on symptoms & medical history to formulate effective oriental medicine treat plans. Insert very fine needles into acupuncture points on body surface and maintain related care. Apply herbal treatment, acupressure & other therapy for patient's specific needs such as back, neck, shoulder, knee pains, headaches etc. 40hrs/wk. Master's degree in Oriental Medicine & Acupuncture. Acupuncturist License in CA required. Resume to: Loma Clinic, Inc. Attn: Kang Hyun Choi, 6301 Beach Blvd. #111, Buena Park, CA 90621

**HV Battery Systems Engineer** sought by Karma Automotive in Irvine, CA. Master's plus 6 months exp. in related field. Send resume to: Jennifer Jeffries, Director, HR, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92618 or email careers@karmaautomotive.com

**Senior Design Release Engineer** ADAS sought by Karma Automotive in Irvine, CA. Bachelor's plus 2 years exp. in related field. Send resume to: Jennifer Jeffries, Director, HR, 9950 Jeronimo Road, Irvine, CA 92618 or email careers@karmaautomotive.com

**Customer Services Rep** Customer Service Center. *Answer incoming calls from customers needing assistance in a variety of areas. *Eulfill customer service functions. *Answer questions, give explanation and solve problems for customers. *Complete special projects as assigned. Send resume to: ptjob001@aol.com

K&D Graphics seek Financial Manager in Orange CA. Assist in the development of the divisional budgets and the processes and procedures to improve the quality of financial analysis. Fluency in Thai required. Mail resumes: Don Chew, 1432 N. Main St., Ste C, Orange, CA, 92867

Interested candidates send resume to: Google LLC, PO Box 26184, San Francisco, CA 94126. Attn: V Murphy. Please reference job # below. Software Engineer (Irvine, CA) Design, develop, modify &/or test software needed for various Google projects. #1615 41662 Exp. incl. C, C++, C#, Java, Javascript, Objective-C, Python, or Go; distrib. sys or algorithms, web app/dev, machine learning, & dev sw sys or security sw dev

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**Business Development Specialist.** E/T. Research market conditions & gather info to determine demand of accounting/tax services. Req. Bachelor's Degree in Bus. Admin, Computer Science or related. Mail resume to: JCJCOMPANY PC, 10 Corporate Park Suite 210, Irvine, CA 92606

Research Analyst needed at United AMG Partners Insurance Services. Job location: Newport Beach, CA. Send resume: 4675 MacArthur Court, Suite 710, Newport Beach, CA 92660. Attn: HR

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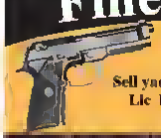
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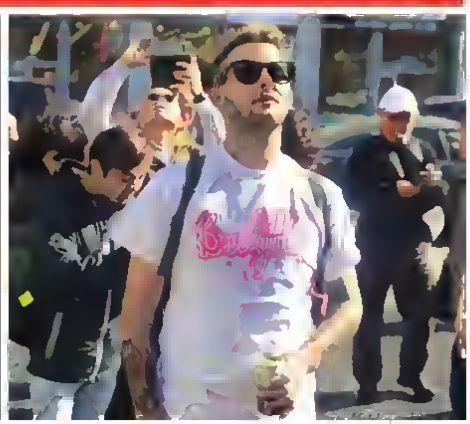
# Hollywouldn't

How not to join a tour of the stars' homes

BY JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

INTENDED TOUR (TOP); PRE-TOUR (BOTTOM LEFT); NON-TOURIST



PHOTOS BY JEFFERSON VANBILLIARD

It started pretty innocently. I'd done enough research to know which celebrity houses would be the most interesting. I just needed to get to Hollywood and try to not look like someone who would murder another person for no reason.

I succeeded in exactly half of my plan.

Maybe it was the excitement of having the chance to see real houses that famous people might have lived in, or maybe it was the potent high from the 225-milligram, PB&J-flavored edible that had just been delivered by Puffy (*puffydelivery.com*) and was subsequently ingested, but I was feeling like a million bucks by the time my train arrived.

My day began at Union Station. The potent mix of hobo pee and Gorilla Glue swirled through my nostrils as I stood on the platform with a crowd of tourists and businessmen waiting for the next four-car train. I studied the map of the stars that I had purchased earlier from a very pushy salesman and realized that about half of the people listed were either dead, had moved or were so boring it wouldn't matter if I ran into them on the street, let alone saw what their gardens looked like.

As the Hollywood sign finally came into view, I looked down at myself and noted that my impeccable sense of fashion would lead to my being found out as an imposter in a sea of Asian tourists. So I did what any logical person would do and made my way to the nearest T-shirt shop. I searched the racks and settled on what I felt not only fit my own personal style, but also would allow me to blend in, it had pink, glittery letters spelling out my favorite city in the world: Beverly Hills.

I then made my way through a sea of Spider-Men and androgynous pirates to the front of the kiosk to purchase my ticket for the TMZ Celebrity Tour. While waiting, I met a couple on vacation hoping to see John Mayer's bachelor pad/sex compound, and I told them about how the hottest girl I ever dated revealed to me that her celebrity crush for whom she had a "hall pass" was the same slack-jawed hillbilly. I guess people take half-hearted death threats super-seriously, and I was no longer allowed on the tour because of "safety concerns." It turns out these tours are magnets for socially inept people plotting revenge and Midwesterners who don't understand self-deprecating humor. Whatever; each seat cost a whopping $70 anyway.

The real slap in the face came when I learned that TMZ legend Harvey Levin doesn't even ride along and you don't get a big plastic cup to drink out of like they do on his gossipy television show. I ducked down a side street and finished a preroll cone from VVS while pondering my next move.

I remembered a few other companies offering the same tours on a more "off the books" kind of operation, so I headed away from the glamour of the Walk of Fame and closer to where dreams seemed to give up. Between a stand hawking bacon-wrapped hot dogs and someone selling what I assumed to be broken watches was one such operation. I paid $30 for the tour and was told the next one would leave in 15 minutes, so I walked into the closest bar to wait. I'm sure you can guess what happened when I returned. Yes, the man was nowhere to be found. The watch lady wasn't snitching, and the hot-dog seller just laughed at me. Dejected, bored and a bit poorer, I walked back into the bar wishing I did run into Mayer so I could punch the equivalent of $30 out of him.

After several shots of tequila, the sting of failure had subsided and I was able to accept that Mayer had bested me yet again. I concluded that Hollywood was a farce. Nothing magical ever happens there, and Levin is a genius for charging people to see celebrity fences. And then I met a man who resembled Thor and Michaelangelo's *David* all at once. BoJesse had sat opposite me, and we started talking about surfing and skating. At first, I thought my new bestie was no different from anyone else in Los Angeles (athletic and charming with a full, thick head of golden hair). But he made the mistake of telling me that he was actually a member of a famous gang of surfers in the '90s that robbed banks to follow the best waves. Turns out I didn't need Levin's stupid bus to see the stars, as one was drinking a whiskey right next to me the whole time and his name was BoJesse Christopher. I asked him every question I had about *Point Break* and Garey Busey's teeth until I had the courage to exchange numbers.

I guess I'll never get to see Burt Reynolds' mailbox or Justin Bieber's hedges, but I know I can catch Bojesse at "Truth Be Told" Acting Collective every Tuesday in Santa Monica. Oh, and don't go on Hollywood tours, they're overpriced and boring.

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